

Abyssinia, and Kordofan, which, however, has more slender horns, with more distinct rings, reaching almost round, a broader forehead, and a generally paler coloration. The horns also diverge much more in *B. tora*, as shown at a glance by the distances between the tips of the horns, as recorded in R. Ward's 'Horn Measurements.' *B. Neumanni* has evidently nothing to do with *Acronotus lelwel*, Heugl. (Reise N.O.-Afr. ii. p. 124), in which the tips of the horns point straight outwards. Matschie has referred *A. lelwel* to the West-African Bubal, but Selater and Thomas have more correctly placed it among the synonyms of *B. buselaphus*. However, a query should be added to the name, the description not being exact enough to make out what the name means. The type is not in the museum at Stuttgart, according to kind information of Prof. Lampert, nor can it be found elsewhere at present.

The horns of *B. Neumanni* measure as follows:—

Circumference at base, ♂ 273 millim., ♀ 183; total length along the curves, ♂ 420, ♀ 345; tip to tip, ♂ 206, ♀ 249.

The rings of the horns are not very prominent and do not reach all round.

Breadth of skull at forehead, ♂ 100 millim., ♀ 80; length of skull from base of horn to upper lip, along the side in a straight line: ♂ 430, ♀ 403 millim.

Colour of hair fulvous fawn, much richer on the back, where there are also some darker spots, which may be stains or natural; below very much paler. Chin blackish, tip of tail black. The male is brighter and darker in colour than the female. There are also on the back some patches with longer, thicker, almost whitish-buff hair, perhaps remains of the winter fur.

XLV.—On the Dwarf Mongoose (*Helogale*) of Somaliland.
By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

THE recent presentation to the British Museum of a *Helogale* obtained by Dr. A. E. Atkinson when with Lord Delamere's shooting-party in Somaliland has enabled me to examine more carefully the characters of this mongoose, which has been assigned by Rhoads* and Elliot† to *H. undulata*, Peters. The specimens referred to by both these authors had passed through London and been provisionally referred to

* Proc. Ac. Philad. 1896, p. 543.

† Field Columbian Museum Publ., Zool. i. p. 147 (1897).

H. undulata; but no opportunity had occurred of making a detailed examination of the skulls and other characters. On now making such a comparison with Dr. Atkinson's specimen, I find that, although undoubtedly nearly allied, it is sufficiently distinct to demand specific separation. I would propose to call it, in honour of its collector, to whom the Museum is indebted for an interesting series of Somali mammals,

Helogale Atkinsoni, sp. n.

Very similar in external appearance to *H. undulata*, and especially to the darker-coloured individuals of that species. It is, however, rather darker than the darkest, with less rufous or fulvous in the general tone, the chest and belly are browner, and the muzzle is blackish brown, as compared to the rufous which occupies this part in all the Museum specimens of *H. undulata*, and is also mentioned by Peters as being present in the types.

Skull with the nasals peculiarly short and broad, extending backwards barely 2 millim. beyond the level of the premaxillary bones, instead of, as in *H. undulata*, running back as a long narrow wedge past the level of the anterior edge of the orbit. Middle upper premolar (p^3) with scarcely a trace of an internal secondary cusp, such as is prominent in all the available skulls of *H. undulata*, five in number, and is mentioned by Peters in his description.

In size *H. Atkinsoni* appears to be just about equal to *H. undulata*, for the type (a rather immature male) has a skull of just the same size as an equally immature male of *H. undulata*, and also just equal to the old female of that species and the old male of *H. parvula*. There appears therefore to be just the same differences between the sexes of *H. undulata* as between the species *undulata* and *parvula*, an old male of the latter just equalling an old female of the former. This question of sexual difference in size was not discussed by Dr. Jentink when he suggested* that *H. undulata* and *H. parvula* were really indistinguishable by size and should not be specifically separated.

Dimensions of the type (a slightly immature male), measured in flesh by the collector:—

Head and body 192 millim.; tail 153; hind foot 41; ear 17.

Skull: basal length 41·7; greatest breadth 25·6; nasals, length in middle line 5·1; interorbital breadth 10·2; breadth

* N. L. M. xi. p. 31 (1888).

of brain-case 22; palate length 22.5, breadth between outer corners of p^4 16; greatest horizontal diameter of p^4 5.1, of m^2 3.4.

Hab. Hargaisa, Somaliland, alt. 1500 m.

Type collected by Dr. A. E. Atkinson, Oct. 26, 1896.

Native name "Shog Shog."

XLVI.—*The Nomenclature of some European Bats.*

By GERRIT S. MILLER, Jr.

WHILE working out the synonymy of the North-American Vespertilionidæ I have found that some glaring errors now pass current in the nomenclature of several European bats. These may be most conveniently discussed under three headings: (I.) the genera *Vespertilio* and *Myotis*, (II.) the genera *Pipistrellus* and *Pterygistes*, and (III.) the genus *Barbastella*.

I. *The Genera Vespertilio and Myotis.*

The generic name *Vespertilio* has long been applied to the 38-toothed members of the family Vespertilionidæ, but in accordance with one of the fundamental laws of nomenclature—that when a composite genus is subdivided its name can never be transferred to a group not included in the original assemblage—this use of the name is inadmissible. The genus *Vespertilio*, Linnæus ('Systema Naturæ,' i. ed. x. pp. 31–32, 1758), included seven species—*vampyrus*, *spectrum*, *perspicillatus*, *spasma*, *leporinus*, *auritus*, and *murinus*. Only two of these, *auritus* and *murinus*, are European. Since it is clear that a non-exotic species should in such a case be made the type of the genus, on the ground that in this way the original meaning of the author will be most closely retained, one of these two must be selected. The species *auritus* was removed to the genus *Plecotus* by Geoffroy in 1818 (Descr. de l'Égypte, Mammif. p. 112). Thus *murinus* is left as the type of the genus *Vespertilio*. True *Vespertilio murinus*, however, is a totally different animal from the one commonly known by that name. To understand the matter fully it is necessary to refer to the two editions of the 'Fauna Suecica,' where Linnæus describes the animal in more detail than in the 'Systema Naturæ.' In the first edition he mentions only one bat, the "Läderlapp," "Flädermus," or "Natt-blacka." This he calls "*Vespertilio caudatus, naso oreque simplici*" (No. 18, p. 7, 1746). In the second edition two